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INADMISSIBILITY OF THE BEST EQUIVARIANT ESTIMATORS OF  
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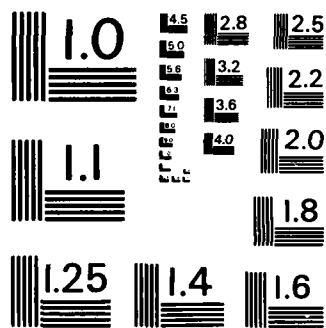
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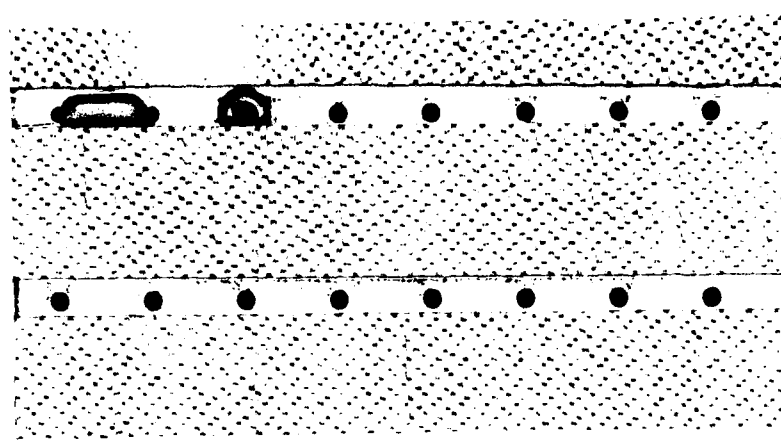




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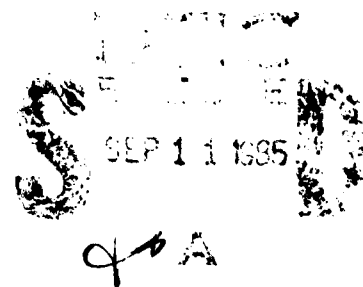
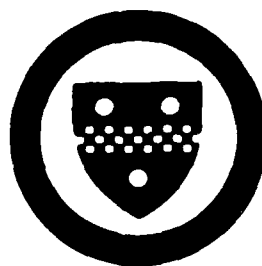
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INADMISSIBILITY OF THE BEST EQUIVARIANT  
ESTIMATORS OF THE VARIANCE-COVARIANCE  
MATRIX AND THE GENERALIZED VARIANCE  
UNDER ENTROPY LOSS

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Abstract

Based on a data matrix  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_k)$ :  $p \times k$  with independent columns  $X_i \sim N_p(\xi_i, \Sigma)$ , and an independent Wishart matrix  $S$ :  $p \times p \sim W_p(n, \Sigma)$ , estimators dominating the best equivariant estimators of  $\xi$  and  $|\xi|$  are obtained under two types of entropy loss. For simultaneous estimation of the mean vector and the variance covariance matrix of a multinormal population, a suitable entropy loss is developed and estimators dominating the pair consisting of the sample mean vector and the best multiple of the sample Wishart matrix are derived. A technique of SINHA (Jour. Mult. Analysis, 1976) is heavily exploited.

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Key Words: Best equivariant estimator, entropy loss, generalized variance, MANOVA test; Roy's maximum root test; estimator, Wishart distribution.

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Bimal K. Sinha<sup>1</sup> and Malay Ghosh<sup>2</sup>

University of Pittsburgh and University of Florida

1. INTRODUCTION. Suppose  $Y_1, \dots, Y_n$  are iid  $N(\xi, \sigma^2)$ . If  $\xi$  is known, then the best scale invariant estimator of  $\sigma^2$  is given by

$$\phi_0(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) = (n+2)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \xi)^2. \quad (1.1)$$

It is proved in Girshick and Savage (1951), and Hodges and Lehmann (1951) that  $\phi_0$  is an admissible estimator of  $\sigma^2$  under squared error loss. However, if  $\xi$  is unknown, then Stein (1964) has shown that the natural estimator

$$\phi_1(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) = (n+1)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2, \quad (1.2)$$

of  $\sigma^2$  ( $\bar{Y} = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i$ ) is inadmissible under squared error loss, and is dominated by estimators of the form

$$\phi(Y_1, \dots, Y_n) = \min[(n+1)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2, (n+2)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \xi_0)^2] \quad (1.3)$$

for every fixed constant  $\xi_0$ . The estimator  $\phi$  of  $\sigma^2$  can be viewed as a preliminary test estimator (testimator) which uses the estimator  $(n+1)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2$  for  $\sigma^2$  if the F-statistic  $n(\bar{Y} - \xi_0)^2 / \{(n-1)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2\}$  for testing  $H_0: \xi = \xi_0$  against the alternatives  $H_1: \xi \neq \xi_0$  exceeds  $(n-1)/(n+1)$  (thereby rejecting  $H_0$  at a certain

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significance level), and uses the estimator  $(n+2)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \xi_0)^2$  otherwise. Stein (1964) considered the more general regression analog of this problem in the canonical set up. Brewster and Zidek (1974) have shown that the results extend to a more general loss including the entropy loss (first introduced in James and Stein (1961)) given by

$$L(a, \sigma^2) = a/\sigma^2 - \log(a/\sigma^2) - 1, \quad (1.4)$$

to which attention will be restricted in this paper.

There are two possible multivariate extensions of the above results. One can consider estimation of the variance-covariance matrix  $\Sigma$  or the generalized variance  $|\Sigma|$  in a multinormal set up. To fix ideas, let  $Y_1, \dots, Y_m$  be iid  $N(\xi, \Sigma)$ , where each  $Y_i$  is  $p \times 1$ . When both  $\xi$  and  $\Sigma$  are unknown, the minimal sufficient statistic for these parameters is  $(X, S)$ , where  $X = m^{-1/2} \bar{Y}_m$  and  $S = \sum_{i=1}^m (Y_i - \bar{Y}_m)(Y_i - \bar{Y}_m)^T$  ( $\bar{Y}_m = m^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^m Y_i$ ). Haff (1979b, 1980, 1982) and Dey and Srinivasan (1985) have considered estimation of  $\Sigma$  under several losses including the entropy loss

$$L_1(\hat{\Sigma}, \Sigma) = \text{tr}(\hat{\Sigma} \Sigma^{-1}) - \log|\hat{\Sigma} \Sigma^{-1}| - p. \quad (1.5)$$

They propose estimators  $\hat{\Sigma}$  of  $\Sigma$  which are functions of the Wishart matrix  $S$  alone, but do not consider any Stein-type estimators (i.e. testimators).

In this note, we consider estimation of  $\Sigma$  and  $\Sigma^{-1}$  each under the entropy losses  $L_1$  and

$$L_2(\hat{\Sigma}, \Sigma) = \text{tr}(\hat{\Sigma} \Sigma^{-1}) - \log|\hat{\Sigma} \Sigma^{-1}| - p. \quad (1.6)$$

To our knowledge, the loss (1.6) has never been considered before either for estimating  $\Sigma$  or  $\Sigma^{-1}$ . Haff (1977, 1979a, 1979b) considers estimation of  $\Sigma^{-1}$  under various quadratic losses. For us, the loss (1.6) seems to be as natural as (1.5), and can be motivated as follows. Suppose  $S$  is a random variable having a  $p$ -dimensional Wishart distribution with degrees of freedom  $n$  and parameter  $\Sigma$  (to be

denoted by  $W_p(n, \Sigma)$ ). Write  $f_{\Sigma}(s)$  as the pdf of  $S$ . Then, a meaningful loss in estimating  $\Sigma$  by  $A$  (or  $\Sigma^{-1}$  by  $A^{-1}$ ) is the entropy distance between  $W_p(n, \Sigma)$  and  $W_p(n, A)$ , and is given by

$$E_{\Sigma} \left[ \log \frac{f_{\Sigma}(S)}{f_A(S)} \right] = (n/2) L_2(A, \Sigma). \quad (1.7)$$

Use of an estimator  $\hat{\Sigma}$  in place of  $A$  gives rise to (1.6).

In Section 2 of this note, we consider estimation of  $\Sigma$  and  $\Sigma^{-1}$  each under the losses (1.5) and (1.6), and develop Stein-type testimators dominating the best multiples of the Wishart matrix and its inverse. A technique of Sinha (1976) is heavily exploited. Incidentally, it may be remarked that for the loss (1.6) no Haff-type improved estimator over the best equivariant estimator is readily available. We also consider simultaneous estimation of the mean vector and the variance-covariance matrix, and develop certain estimators dominating the pair consisting of the sample mean vector and the best multiple of the Wishart matrix under a suitable entropy loss to be developed in Section 2.

In Section 3, we consider estimation of  $|\Sigma|$ . This problem has received attention in Shorrock and Zidek (1976), and Sinha (1976). In these papers Stein-type testimators are developed, and are shown to dominate the best multiple of  $|S|$  under squared error loss. Similar testimators are developed in Section 3, and are shown to dominate the best multiple of  $|S|$  under the two entropy losses

$$L_1(|\hat{\Sigma}|, |\Sigma|) = |\hat{\Sigma}|/|\Sigma| - \log(|\hat{\Sigma}|/|\Sigma|) - 1 \quad (1.8)$$

and

$$L_2(|\hat{\Sigma}|, |\Sigma|) = |\Sigma|/|\hat{\Sigma}| - \log(|\Sigma|/|\hat{\Sigma}|) - 1. \quad (1.9)$$

Throughout this paper, for two matrices  $A$  and  $B$  of the same order,  $A \geq B$  implies that  $A - B$  is nonnegative definite. In the remainder of this section, we state with-



out proof three matrix lemmas which are used repeatedly in Section 2. The proofs of these lemmas are quite straightforward.

LEMMA 1. Let  $F_p$  denote the class of all nonsingular matrices. Then for any  $A \in F_p$  and  $B \in F_p$ ,

$$\text{tr}(AB) - \log|B| \geq \log|A| + p, \quad (1.10)$$

equality holding iff  $B = A^{-1}$ .

LEMMA 2. Suppose  $A \geq 0$  and  $B \geq C$ , where  $A, B, C$  and the null matrix  $0$  are square matrices of the same order. Then,

$$\text{tr } AB \geq \text{tr } AC. \quad (1.11)$$

LEMMA 3. For any positive definite matrix  $A$ ,

$$\text{tr } A - \log|A| - p \geq 0,$$

with equality iff  $A = I_p$ .

2. ESTIMATION OF  $\Sigma$  AND  $\Sigma^{-1}$ . Consider a multivariate normal linear model in its canonical form. Suppose  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_k)$  is a  $p \times k$  matrix with independent columns  $X_i \sim N_p(\xi_i, \Sigma)$ , and let  $S$  be a  $p$ -dimensional Wishart matrix with degrees of freedom  $n$  and parameter  $\Sigma$  distributed independently of  $X$ . We assume  $n > p+1$  and  $\xi_i$ 's unknown.

Consider first estimation of  $\Sigma$  under the loss (1.5). As pointed out by Shorrock and Zidek (1976), the above problem remains invariant under the full affine group  $G$  acting on the space of  $p \times k$  matrices (writing  $\xi = (\xi_1, \dots, \xi_k)$ )

$$X \rightarrow AX + B, \quad \xi \rightarrow A\xi + B, \quad S \rightarrow ASA^T, \quad \Sigma \rightarrow A\Sigma A^T, \quad (2.1)$$

where  $\underline{A}$  is any nonsingular  $p \times p$  matrix, and  $\underline{B}$  is any  $p \times k$  matrix. Then, any affine equivariant estimator of  $\underline{\Sigma}$  must be of the form

$$\phi_0(\underline{S}) = c\underline{S}, \quad (2.2)$$

where  $c$  is a constant. Noting that  $E(\underline{S}) = \underline{n}$ , it follows that under the loss (1.5), the optimal choice of  $c$  minimizing the risk of  $c\underline{S}$  under the loss (1.5) is  $c = \underline{n}^{-1}$ .

Following Sinha (1976), write  $\underline{S} = \underline{W}\underline{W}^T$  and  $\underline{U} = \underline{W}^{-1}\underline{X}$ , where  $\underline{W}$  is a  $p \times p$  nonsingular matrix. In order to improve on the best affine equivariant estimator  $\underline{n}^{-1}\underline{S}$ , consider the class  $\mathcal{C}$  of estimators of  $\underline{\Sigma}$  having the form  $\hat{\underline{\Sigma}} = \phi(\underline{W}, \underline{U}) = \underline{W}\underline{\psi}\underline{W}^T$ , where  $\underline{\psi} \equiv \underline{\psi}(\underline{U}\underline{U}^T)$  is a  $p \times p$  nonsingular matrix. This class  $\mathcal{C}$  contains estimators equivariant under a nonnormal subgroup  $H$  of  $G$  obtained from  $G$  by putting  $\underline{B} = \underline{0}$ . The special choice  $\underline{\psi} \equiv \underline{\psi}_0 = \underline{n}^{-1}\underline{I}_p$  leads to the corresponding estimator  $\phi_0 = \underline{W}\underline{\psi}_0\underline{W}^T = \underline{n}^{-1}\underline{S}$  of  $\underline{\Sigma}$ . In order to compute the risk  $R_\phi$  of  $\phi$  under the loss (1.5), first let  $\underline{X}_* = \underline{A}\underline{X}$ ,  $\underline{W}_* = \underline{A}\underline{W}$ , where  $\underline{A}$  is a  $p \times p$  nonsingular matrix such that  $\underline{A}\underline{\Sigma}\underline{A}^T = \underline{I}_p$ ,  $\underline{I}_p$  denoting the identity matrix of order  $p$ . Note that  $\underline{U} = \underline{W}^{-1}\underline{X} = \underline{W}_*^{-1}\underline{X}_*$ . Then, writing  $E_{\xi, \underline{\Sigma}}$  as the expectation under  $N_p(\xi_1, \underline{\Sigma})$  for  $X_i, i=1, \dots, p$  and  $W_p(n, \underline{\Sigma})$  for  $\underline{S}$ , and  $\xi_* = \underline{A}\xi$ , one gets

$$\begin{aligned} R_\phi &= E_{\xi, \underline{\Sigma}} [\text{tr}(\underline{W}\underline{\psi}\underline{W}^T \underline{\Sigma}^{-1}) - \log |\underline{W}\underline{\psi}\underline{W}^T \underline{\Sigma}^{-1}| - p] \\ &= E_{\xi_*, \underline{I}_p} [\text{tr}(\underline{W}_*^T \underline{W}_* \underline{\psi}) - \log |\underline{W}_*^T \underline{W}_*| - \log |\underline{\psi}| - p]. \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

Note that for comparing the risk performance of members within the class  $\mathcal{C} \ni \hat{\underline{\Sigma}} = \underline{W}\underline{\psi}\underline{W}^T$  (under  $\xi, \underline{\Sigma}$ ) =  $\underline{W}_*\underline{\psi}\underline{W}_*^T$  (under  $\xi_*, \underline{I}_p$ ), it suffices to consider

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{R}_\phi &= E_{\xi_*, \underline{I}_p} [\text{tr}(\underline{W}_*^T \underline{W}_* \underline{\psi}) - \log |\underline{\psi}|] \\ &= E[\text{tr}(\underline{\psi}_*^{-1}(\xi_*, \underline{U})\underline{\psi}) - \log |\underline{\psi}|], \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

where  $\psi_{*}^{-1}(\xi_{*}, u) = E_{\xi_{*}, I_p} (W_{*}^T W_{*} | U = u)$ , and  $\tilde{E}$  denotes expectation over the marginal distribution of  $U$ .

To minimize  $R_{\phi}$  with respect to  $\phi$ , it suffices to minimize

$$\text{tr}\{\psi_{*}^{-1}(\xi_{*}, u)\psi\} - \log|\psi| \quad (2.5)$$

with respect to  $\psi$  for every  $u$ . Using Lemma 1 with  $A = \psi_{*}^{-1}(\xi_{*}, u)$  and  $B = \psi$ , it follows that the expression in (2.5) is minimized when  $\psi = \psi_{*}(\xi_{*}, u)$ . However, this expression involves not only  $u$  but  $\xi_{*}$  also. We find next an upper bound for  $\psi_{*}(\xi_{*}, u)$  free from  $\xi_{*}$ .

LEMMA 4.  $\psi_{*}(\xi_{*}, u) \leq \tilde{\psi}(u) = (n+k)^{-1}(I_p + uu^T)$ .

The proof of this lemma is deferred to the Appendix. Based on  $\tilde{\psi}(u)$ , a testimator is now constructed as follows.

Let  $\tilde{\phi} = \tilde{W}\tilde{\psi}\tilde{W}^T = (n+k)^{-1}(S + XX^T)$ . For estimating  $\Sigma$ , define the testimator

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\phi} &= \tilde{\phi} \quad \text{if } \tilde{\phi} \leq \phi_0 \\ &= \phi_0 \quad \text{otherwise.} \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

The corresponding  $\tilde{\psi}$  say  $\tilde{\psi}$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\psi} &= \tilde{\psi} \quad \text{if } \tilde{\psi} \leq \psi_0 \\ &= \psi_0 \quad \text{otherwise.} \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

Remark 1. The estimator  $\tilde{\phi}$  defined in (2.6) is a multivariate generalization of Stein's (1964) univariate testimator. The condition  $\tilde{\phi} \leq \phi_0$  can be alternately expressed as  $XX^T \leq (k/n)S \Leftrightarrow \sup_{\ell \neq 0} (\ell^T XX^T \ell) / (\ell^T S \ell) \leq k/n \Leftrightarrow$  largest eigenvalue of  $X^T S^{-1} X \leq k/n$ . Thus, the estimator proposed in (2.6) is based on Roy's maximum root

test. The test reduces for  $k=1$  to Hotelling's  $T^2$  test.

Remark 2. The condition  $\tilde{\psi} \leq \psi_0$  can be alternately expressed as  $UU^T \leq k/n \Leftrightarrow \|U\| \leq k/n$  where  $\|\cdot\|$  denotes the Euclidean norm.

The following theorem shows the dominance of the testimator  $\tilde{\phi}$  over  $\phi_0$ .

THEOREM 1. Under the loss (1.5),

$$R_{\tilde{\phi}} < R_{\phi_0} \quad \text{for all } \xi \text{ and } \Sigma.$$

Proof: Using (2.3), (2.4) and (2.7),

$$\begin{aligned} R_{\tilde{\phi}} - R_{\phi_0} &= \tilde{R}_{\tilde{\phi}} - \tilde{R}_{\phi_0} \\ &= \tilde{E}[\text{tr}(\tilde{\psi}_*^{-1}(\tilde{\psi} - \psi_0)) - \log \frac{|\tilde{\psi}|}{|\psi_0|}] I_{[\tilde{\psi} \leq \psi_0]}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.8)$$

From Lemma 4,  $\tilde{\psi}_*^{-1} \geq \tilde{\psi}^{-1}$ . Now, using Lemma 2 with  $A = \psi_0 - \tilde{\psi}$ ,  $B = \tilde{\psi}_*^{-1}$  and  $C = \tilde{\psi}^{-1}$ , one gets from (2.8),

$$\begin{aligned} R_{\tilde{\phi}} - R_{\phi_0} &\leq -\tilde{E}[\text{tr} \tilde{\psi}^{-1}(\psi_0 - \tilde{\psi}) + \log \frac{|\tilde{\psi}|}{|\psi_0|}] I_{[\tilde{\psi} \leq \psi_0]} \\ &= -\tilde{E}[\text{tr}(\psi_0 \tilde{\psi}^{-1}) - \log |\psi_0 \tilde{\psi}^{-1}| - p] I_{[\tilde{\psi} \leq \psi_0]} \\ &< 0, \end{aligned} \quad (2.9)$$

where in the last step of (2.9), one uses Lemma 3. The proof of Theorem 1 is complete from (2.8) and (2.9).

Remark 3. Quite generally, given any estimator  $\phi = W\psi W^T$ , defining  $\tilde{\phi} = \phi$  if  $\phi \leq \phi$ ,  $\tilde{\phi} = \phi$  otherwise, where  $\tilde{\phi} = W\tilde{\psi}W^T$  and  $\tilde{\psi}$  is defined in Lemma 4, one gets  $R_{\tilde{\phi}} < R_{\phi}$  for all  $\xi$  and  $\Sigma$  (vide Sinha (1976)). This enables one to develop sequential testimators as in Sinha (1976).

Next we consider the loss given in (1.6). In this case, the best multiple of  $S$  (minimizing the risk) is given by  $(n-p-1)^{-1}$ . Let  $\phi_{00}(S) = (n-p-1)^{-1}S$ ,  $= W\psi_{00}W^T$  so that  $\psi_{00} = (n-p-1)^{-1}I_p$ . Once again, we consider a competing class  $C_0$  of estimators of the form  $\phi(S) = W\psi(UU^T)W^T$ . Proceeding as in (2.3), under the loss (1.6), the risk of  $\phi$  is given by

$$R_{\phi} = E_{\xi_{*}, I_p} [\text{tr}\{(W_{*}^T W_{*})^{-1} \psi^{-1}\} - \log |(W_{*}^T W_{*})^{-1}| - \log |\psi^{-1}| - p].$$

Hence, for comparing estimators of the given type  $\phi$ , it suffices to consider

$$\tilde{R}_{\phi} = E_{\xi_{*}, I_p} [\text{tr}\{(W_{*}^T W_{*})^{-1} \psi^{-1}\} - \log |\psi^{-1}|]. \quad (2.10)$$

Using Lemma 1 once again, it follows that the optimal choice of  $\psi$  is  $E_{\xi_{*}, I_p} [(W_{*}^T W_{*})^{-1} | u]$   $= \psi_1(\xi_{*}, u)$  (say). Similar to Lemma 4, we now prove the following lemma.

**LEMMA 5.**  $\psi_1(\xi_{*}, u) \leq (n-p-1+k)^{-1}(I_p + uu^T) = \tilde{\psi}_0(u)$  (say).

The proof of Lemma 5 is also deferred to the appendix. Let  $\tilde{\phi}_0(S) = W\tilde{\psi}_0(u)W^T$ .

Similar to the previous situation, we define the testimator

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\phi}_0(S) &= \tilde{\phi}_0(S) \quad \text{if } \tilde{\phi}_0(S) \leq \phi_{00}(S) \\ &= \phi_{00}(S) \quad \text{otherwise.} \end{aligned} \quad (2.11)$$

Accordingly, the  $\psi$  value corresponding to  $\tilde{\phi}_0$  will be given by

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\psi}_0(u) &= \tilde{\psi}_0(u) \quad \text{if } \tilde{\psi}_0(u) \leq \psi_{00}(u) \\ &= \psi_{00}(u) \quad \text{otherwise.} \end{aligned} \quad (2.12)$$

**Remark 4.** Note that  $\tilde{\phi}_0(S) = (n-p-1+k)^{-1}(S + XX^T)$ . Hence, the condition  $\tilde{\phi}_0(S) \leq \phi_{00}(S)$  can be equivalently expressed as largest eigenvalue of  $X'S^{-1}X \leq k/(n-p-1)$ . Thus, in this case also, the preliminary test is based on Roy's maximum root test.

We now prove the following theorem.

**THEOREM 2.** Under the loss (1.6),  $R_{\tilde{\phi}_0} < R_{\phi_{00}}$ .

**Proof:** Write

$$\begin{aligned} R_{\tilde{\phi}_0} - R_{\phi_{00}} &= \tilde{R}_{\tilde{\phi}_0} - \tilde{R}_{\phi_{00}} \\ &= E[\text{tr}\{\psi_1(\xi_*, U)(\tilde{\psi}_0^{-1} - \psi_{00}^{-1})\} - \log \frac{|\tilde{\psi}_0^{-1}|}{|\psi_{00}^{-1}|} | I_{[\tilde{\psi}_0 \leq \psi_{00}]}] \end{aligned} \quad (2.13)$$

In view of Lemma 5, putting  $A = \tilde{\psi}_0^{-1} - \psi_{00}^{-1}$ ,  $B = \tilde{\psi}_0$  and  $C = \psi_1(\xi_*, U)$  in Lemma 2 one gets

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{rhs of (2.13)} \\ &\leq E[\text{tr}(\tilde{\psi}_0(\tilde{\psi}_0^{-1} - \psi_{00}^{-1}) + \log |\tilde{\psi}_0 \psi_{00}^{-1}| | I_{[\tilde{\psi}_0 \leq \psi_{00}]}] \\ &= -E[\text{tr}(\tilde{\psi}_0 \psi_{00}^{-1}) - \log |\tilde{\psi}_0 \psi_{00}^{-1}| - p | I_{[\tilde{\psi}_0 \leq \psi_{00}]}] \\ &< 0, \end{aligned} \quad (2.14)$$

where in the last step of (2.14), one uses Lemma 3. The proof of the theorem is complete from (2.13) and (2.14).

**Remark 5.** Here again, as explained in Remark 3, one can develop sequential estimators each dominating the best equivariant estimator  $\phi_{00}(S)$ .

We consider now the simultaneous estimation of the mean vector and the variance-covariance matrix under entropy loss. Writing  $f_{\mu, \Sigma}(Y_1, \dots, Y_n)$  as the joint pdf of  $n$  iid  $N_p(\mu, \Sigma)$  variables, it follows that taking the loss  $L((\mu, \Sigma), (\ell, A))$  as the entropy distance between the  $N_p(\mu, \Sigma)$  and  $N_p(\ell, A)$  distributions, and assuming  $n > p+1$  for purposes of estimation, one gets

$$\begin{aligned}
L[(\underline{\mu}, \underline{\Sigma}), (\underline{\ell}, \underline{A})] &= E_{\underline{\mu}, \underline{\Sigma}} \left[ \log \frac{f_{\underline{\mu}, \underline{\Sigma}}(\underline{Y}_1, \dots, \underline{Y}_n)}{f_{\underline{\ell}, \underline{A}}(\underline{Y}_1, \dots, \underline{Y}_n)} \right] \\
&= E_{\underline{\mu}, \underline{\Sigma}} \left[ \log \left( \left| \underline{\Sigma} \right| / \left| \underline{A} \right| \right)^{-\frac{n}{2}} \frac{1}{2} \{ \text{tr}(\underline{\Sigma}^{-1} \underline{S}_0) + n(\bar{\underline{Y}} - \underline{\mu})^T \underline{\Sigma}^{-1} (\bar{\underline{Y}} - \underline{\mu}) \} \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \frac{1}{2} \{ \text{tr}(\underline{A}^{-1} \underline{S}_0) + n(\bar{\underline{Y}} - \underline{\ell})^T \underline{\Sigma}^{-1} (\bar{\underline{Y}} - \underline{\ell}) \} \right] \\
&\quad (\text{where } \bar{\underline{Y}} = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n \underline{Y}_i, \underline{S}_0 = \sum_{i=1}^n (\underline{Y}_i - \bar{\underline{Y}})(\underline{Y}_i - \bar{\underline{Y}})^T) \\
&= \log |\underline{\Sigma} \underline{A}^{-1}|^{-\frac{n}{2}} - \frac{np}{2} - \frac{p}{2} \\
&\quad + \frac{n}{2} \text{tr}(\underline{\Sigma} \underline{A}^{-1}) + \frac{1}{2} [p + n(\underline{\ell} - \underline{\mu})^T \underline{\Sigma}^{-1} (\underline{\ell} - \underline{\mu})] \\
&= \frac{n}{2} [(\underline{\ell} - \underline{\mu})^T \underline{\Sigma}^{-1} (\underline{\ell} - \underline{\mu}) + \text{tr}(\underline{\Sigma} \underline{A}^{-1}) - \log |\underline{\Sigma} \underline{A}^{-1}| - p]. \tag{2.15}
\end{aligned}$$

Thus if one uses the best location and scale invariant estimators  $\bar{\underline{Y}}$  and  $(n-p-1)^{-1} \underline{S}_0$  for  $\underline{\mu}$  and  $\underline{\Sigma}$  respectively, in view of the loss (2.15), it suffices to improve on  $\bar{\underline{Y}}$  and  $(n-p-1)^{-1} \underline{S}_0$  separately. From James and Stein (1961), it follows that under the loss

$$L_0(\underline{\ell}, \underline{\mu}) = (\underline{\ell} - \underline{\mu})^T \underline{\Sigma}^{-1} (\underline{\ell} - \underline{\mu}),$$

$\bar{\underline{Y}}$  is improved by the estimator  $\delta_0(\bar{\underline{Y}}, \underline{S}_0) = (1 - \frac{p-2}{n\bar{\underline{Y}}^T \underline{S}_0^{-1} \bar{\underline{Y}}}) \bar{\underline{Y}}$ , provided  $p > 2$ .

Again the loss

$$L_2(\underline{\Sigma}, \underline{A}) = \text{tr}(\underline{\Sigma} \underline{A}^{-1}) - \log |\underline{\Sigma} \underline{A}^{-1}| - p$$

is the same as the loss (1.6), and taking  $k=1$  in Theorem 2, it follows that

$(n-p-1)^{-1} \underline{S}_0$  is dominated by the testimator

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta_1(\bar{\underline{Y}}, \underline{S}_0) &= (n-p)^{-1} (\underline{S}_0 + n\bar{\underline{Y}}\bar{\underline{Y}}^T) \quad \text{if } (n-p)^{-1} (\underline{S}_0 + n\bar{\underline{Y}}\bar{\underline{Y}}^T) \leq (n-p-1)^{-1} \underline{S}_0 \\
&= (n-p-1)^{-1} \underline{S}_0 \quad \text{otherwise.}
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, under the loss (2.15),  $(\bar{Y}, S_0)$  is dominated by  $(\delta_0, \delta_1)$  for  $p > 2$ . For  $p \leq 2$ ,  $(\bar{Y}, S_0)$  is of course dominated by  $(\bar{Y}, \delta_1)$ . Finally, for  $p \geq 2$ , sequential testimators each dominating  $(\bar{Y}, S_0)$  for the loss (2.15) can be easily obtained (vide Sinha (1976)).

Next we consider estimation of the precision matrix  $\Sigma^{-1}$  under the losses (1.5) and (1.6) (calling  $L_1(\hat{\Sigma}, \Sigma)$  and  $L_2(\hat{\Sigma}, \Sigma)$  as  $L_1(\hat{\Sigma}^{-1}, \Sigma^{-1})$  and  $L_2(\hat{\Sigma}^{-1}, \Sigma^{-1})$  respectively). Consider the class of estimators of the form  $\phi = (W\psi W^T)^{-1}$  for  $\Sigma^{-1}$  so that, under  $L_1$ , the choice  $\psi = n^{-1}I_p$  leads to the best multiple (of  $S^{-1}$ ) estimator  $nS^{-1}$  of  $\Sigma^{-1}$ . Recalling that  $\tilde{\phi}(S) = (n+k)^{-1}(S+XX^T)$ , it follows that defining  $\tilde{\phi}$  as in (2.6), the best equivariant estimator  $nS^{-1} = \phi_0^{-1}(S)$  is dominated by  $\tilde{\phi}^{-1}(S)$ . Similarly, under the loss  $L_2$ , the best equivariant estimator  $(n-p-1)S^{-1} = \phi_{00}^{-1}(S)$  of  $\Sigma^{-1}$  is dominated by  $\tilde{\phi}_0^{-1}(S)$  defined in (2.11). Again, in each case sequential testimators are easily obtained.

3. ESTIMATION OF  $|\Sigma|$ . Consider the same set up as of Section 2. Estimating  $|\Sigma|$  by  $a$ , assume the loss to be given by

$$L_1(a, |\Sigma|) = \frac{a}{|\Sigma|} - \log \frac{a}{|\Sigma|} - 1. \quad (3.1)$$

Following Shorrock and Zidek (1976) and Sinha (1976), it follows that the best equivariant estimator of  $|\Sigma|$  is  $c_0|S|$  where  $c_0$  is determined from minimizing  $E_{\Sigma = I_p} (c|S| - \log c)$  with respect to  $c$ . This gives

$$c_0 = (E_{\Sigma = I_p} |S|)^{-1} = (n-p)!/n!.$$

Following Stein's suggestion, and arguments as in Shorrock and Zidek (1976) or Sinha (1976), we look for better estimators in the class  $\phi(X, S) = \psi(X^T S^{-1} X) |S|$



for some real valued function  $\psi$ . Under the loss (3.1),  $\phi$  has the risk

$$R_{\phi} = E_{\xi_{*}, I_p} [\psi(X^T S^{-1} X) |S| - \log \psi(X^T S^{-1} X) - \log |S| - 1], \quad (3.2)$$

where  $\xi_{*}$  is defined as in Section 2. Write  $V = X^T S^{-1} X$  so that given  $V = v$ , the best choice of  $\psi$  (minimizing (3.2)) is given by  $\psi(v) = \psi_{\xi_{*}}(v) = \{E_{\xi_{*}, I_p} (|S| |V=v)\}^{-1}$ . Following the line of argument of Sinha (1976), one can easily show that

$$\psi_{\xi_{*}}(v) \leq |I_k + v| (n-p+k)! / (n+k)! = \psi_0(v) \quad (\text{say}). \quad (3.3)$$

Then, it is easy to show using (3.3) and strict convexity of the loss (3.1) that for every  $\psi$  defining  $\tilde{\psi}(v) = \min(\psi(v), \psi_0(v))$ ,  $\tilde{\psi}(X^T S^{-1} X) |S|$  dominates  $\psi(X^T S^{-1} X) |S|$  under the loss (3.1). In particular, the estimator  $Z = \min\{\frac{(n-p)!}{n!} |S|, \frac{(n-p+k)!}{(n+k)!} |S + XX^T|\}$  dominates  $\{(n-p)!/n!\} |S|$  under the loss (3.1). Note that  $Z$  is indeed a testimator since the ratio  $|S + XX^T| / |S| = |I_k + X^T S^{-1} X|$  is a MANOVA test statistic for  $H_0: \xi = 0$  against  $H_1: \xi \neq 0$ .

For the other loss  $L_2(a, |\Sigma|)$  defined by

$$L_2(a, |\Sigma|) = \frac{|\Sigma|}{a} - \log \frac{|\Sigma|}{a} - 1 \quad (3.4)$$

it follows that the best equivariant estimator of  $|\Sigma|$  is  $c|S|$  where  $c$  minimizes  $E_{\Sigma=I_p} (\frac{1}{c|S|} + \log c)$ . This gives  $c = E_{\Sigma=I_p} \{|S|^{-1}\} = (n-p-2)! / (n-2)!$

As before, we look for a better estimator in the class  $\phi(X, S) = \psi(X^T S^{-1} X) |S|$  for some real valued function  $\psi$ . Such a  $\phi$ , under the loss (3.4), has the risk

$$R_{\phi} = E_{\xi_{*}, I_p} [1/(\psi(X^T S^{-1} X) |S|) + \log \psi(X^T S^{-1} X) + \log |S| - 1] \quad (3.5)$$

which is minimized for a given  $V = v$  by choosing  $\psi(v) = \psi_{\xi_{*}}(v) = E_{\xi_{*}, I_p} \{|S|^{-1} |V=v\}$ . Following Sinha (1976), we can easily show that

$$\psi_{\xi_{*}}(v) \leq |I_k + v| (n-p-2+k)! / (n-2+k)! = \psi_0(v) \quad (\text{say}). \quad (3.6)$$

Then, for every  $\psi$  defining  $\tilde{\psi}(\underline{v}) = \min(\psi(\underline{v}), \psi_0(\underline{v}))$ , it follows that  $\tilde{\psi}(\underline{X}^T \underline{S}^{-1} \underline{X}) |\underline{S}|$  dominates  $\psi(\underline{X}^T \underline{S}^{-1} \underline{X}) |\underline{S}|$  under the loss (3.4). In particular, the estimator  $Z = \min\left\{\frac{(n-p-2)!}{(n-2)!} |\underline{S}|, \frac{(n-p-2+k)!}{(n-2+k)!} |\underline{S}^{-1} \underline{X} \underline{X}^T| \right\}$  dominates  $\{(n-p-2)!/(n-2)! |\underline{S}|$  under  $L_2$  loss.

As in Sinha (1976), it is possible to easily derive sequential estimators of  $|\Sigma|$  under both the losses. Details are omitted.

## APPENDIX

Proof of Lemma 4. Since,  $I_p + uu^T$  is positive definite, there exists a nonsingular  $Q$  such that  $QQ^T = I_p + uu^T$ . Write  $W_{**} = W_*Q$ . Then the inequality  $\psi_*(\xi_*, u) \leq \tilde{\psi}(u) \Leftrightarrow \psi_*^{-1}(\xi_*, u) \geq \tilde{\psi}^{-1}(u)$  can be alternately expressed as  $Q^{T-1} E_{\xi_*, I_p} (W_{**}^T W_{**} | u) Q^T \geq (n+k) Q^{T-1} Q^T$ .

Hence, it suffices to show that

$$E_{\xi_*, I_p} (W_{**}^T W_{**} | u) \geq (n+k) I_p \quad \text{for all } u, \xi_*. \quad (A.1)$$

Note that (A.1) can be alternately expressed as

$$E_{\xi_*, I_p} (\ell^T W_{**}^T W_{**} \ell | u) \geq (n+k) \ell^T \ell \quad (A.2)$$

for all  $\ell (\neq 0)$ ,  $u$  and  $\xi_*$ . From (2.19) of Sinha (1976), it follows that a sufficient condition for (A.2) to hold is that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{w \in E^p} |ww^T|^{\frac{n-p+k}{2}} (\ell^T w w^T \ell) \exp[-\frac{1}{2}(ww^T - 2wu_* \xi_*^T)] dw \\ & \div \int_{w \in E^p} |ww^T|^{\frac{n-p+k}{2}} \exp[-\frac{1}{2}(ww^T - 2wu_* \xi_*^T)] dw \\ & \geq (n+k) \ell^T \ell \end{aligned} \quad (A.3)$$

for all  $\ell \neq 0$ ,  $u_* = Q^{-1}u$  and  $\xi_*$ . In (A.3) and in what follows, we use the notation  $w$  for  $w_{**}$  (and accordingly  $W$  for  $W_{**}$ ).

Use now the transformation  $Z = WL^T$ , where  $L^T$  is an orthogonal matrix with its first column vector equal to  $\ell/(\ell^T \ell)^{1/2}$ . We write  $Z = (Z_1, \dots, Z_p)$ . Then (A.3) can be alternately expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{z \in E^p} |zz^T|^{\frac{n-p+k}{2}} (z_1^T z_1) \exp[-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(zz^T - 2zu_L \xi_*^T)] dz \\ & \div \int_{z \in E^p} |zz^T|^{\frac{n-p+k}{2}} \exp[-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(zz^T - 2zu_L \xi_*^T)] dz \\ & \geq n+k, \quad \text{where } u_L = Lu_*. \end{aligned} \quad (A.4)$$

Next, as in Sinha (1976), let  $A_p = I_p$  and

$$A_i = I_p - (Z_{i+1} \dots Z_p) \begin{pmatrix} Z_{i+1}^T Z_{i+1} & \dots & Z_{i+1}^T Z_p \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ Z_p^T Z_{i+1} & \dots & Z_p^T Z_p \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} Z_{i+1} \\ \vdots \\ Z_p \end{pmatrix}$$

$$i = 1, \dots, p-1.$$

Then, following (2.20)-(2.21) of Sinha (1976) and noting that his  $w$ 's are our  $z$ 's, we can express the left hand side of (A.4), in Sinha's (1976) notation, as

$$E[(W_{p-p}^T W_{p-p})^{\frac{n-p+k}{2}} (W_{p-1-p-1}^T A_{p-1} W_{p-1-p-1})^{\frac{n-p+k}{2}} \dots (W_{1-1-1}^T A_{1-1} W_{1-1-1})^{\frac{n-p+k}{2}} W_{1-1-1}^T W_{1-1-1}]$$

$$\div E[(W_{p-p}^T W_{p-p})^{\frac{n-p+k}{2}} (W_{p-1-p-1}^T A_{p-1} W_{p-1-p-1})^{\frac{n-p+k}{2}} \dots (W_{1-1-1}^T A_{1-1} W_{1-1-1})^{\frac{n-p+k}{2}}]$$
(A.5)

where, given  $W_{(i+1)}, \dots, W_{(p)}$ ,  $W_{i-1-1}^T A_{i-1} W_{i-1-1}$  is a noncentral chisquared variable with i.d.f. and noncentrality parameter  $\lambda_{(i)}^2 = \eta_{(i)}^T A_{i-1} \eta_{(i)}$  where  $(\eta_{(1)}, \dots, \eta_{(p)}) = u_L \xi_{\star}^T$ . Accordingly, using the fact that  $W_{1-1-1}^T W_{1-1-1} \geq W_{1-1-1}^T A_{1-1} W_{1-1-1}$  and proceeding as in Sinha (1976), we get the expression in (A.5)  $\geq 2^{\frac{n-p+k}{2}} + p = n+k$ , where in the ultimate step, one uses (2.22) of Sinha with  $r = (n-p+k)/2$ . The proof of Lemma 4 is complete.

Proof of Lemma 5. It suffices to show that

$$E[\ell^T (W_{\star}^T W_{\star})^{-1} \ell \mid u] \leq (n-p-1+k)^{-1} \ell^T (I_p + uu^T) \ell$$
(A.6)

for all  $\ell (\neq 0)$ ,  $u$  and  $\xi_{\star}$ . Defining  $Q$  as in the proof of Lemma 4, and using calculations similar to (A.1)-(A.3), we find that (A.6) can be equivalently expressed as

$$\int_{w \in E^p} 2 |ww^T|^{-\frac{n-p+k}{2}} (\ell^T (w w^T)^{-1} \ell) \exp[-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(w w^T - 2w u \xi_{\star}^T)] dw$$

$$\div \int_{w \in E^p} 2 |ww^T|^{-\frac{n-p+k}{2}} \exp[-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(w w^T - 2w u \xi_{\star}^T)] dw$$

$$\leq (n-p-1+k)^{-1} (\ell^T \ell)$$
(A.7)

for all  $\ell (\neq 0)$ ,  $u_* = Q^{-1}u$  and  $\xi_*$ . Next make the transformation  $Z^T = WL$  where  $Z = (Z_1, \dots, Z_p)$  and  $L$  is an orthogonal matrix with its first column vector equal to  $\ell / (\ell^T \ell)^{1/2}$ . Then,  $(ZZ^T)^{-1} = (L^T W^T W L)^{-1} = L^T (W^T W)^{-1} L$  so that  $\ell^T (W^T W)^{-1} \ell / (\ell^T \ell)$  is the element in the first row and first column of  $(ZZ^T)^{-1}$ . We denote this by  $(ZZ^T)^{-1}_{1,1}$ . Now, writing  $u_L = L^T u_*$ , (A.7) can be equivalently expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{z \in E^p} |zz^T|^{-\frac{n-p+k}{2}} (zz^T)^{-1}_{1,1} \exp[-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(zz^T - 2z^T u_L \xi_*^T)] dz \\ & \div \int_{z \in E^p} |zz^T|^{-\frac{n-p+k}{2}} \exp[-\frac{1}{2} (zz^T - 2z^T u_L \xi_*^T)] dz \\ & \leq (n-p-1+k)^{-1}. \end{aligned} \quad (A.8)$$

With the same  $A_i$ 's ( $i = 1, \dots, p$ ) as defined in Lemma 4, it follows that

$$|zz^T| = (Z_{p-p}^T Z_p) (Z_{p-1-p-1}^T Z_{p-1}) \dots (Z_{2-2-2}^T Z_2) (Z_{1-1-1}^T Z_1)$$

and

$$(ZZ^T)^{-1}_{1,1} = |zz^T|^{-1} (Z_{p-p}^T Z_p) \dots (Z_{2-2-2}^T Z_2).$$

Accordingly, writing  $r = (n-p+k)/2$ , lhs of (A.8)

$$\begin{aligned} & = E[(Z_{p-p-p}^T A_{p-p-p})^r \dots (Z_{2-2-2}^T A_{2-2-2})^r (Z_{1-1-1}^T A_{1-1-1})^{r-1}] \\ & \div E[(Z_{p-p-p}^T A_{p-p-p} Z_p)^r \dots (Z_{2-2-2}^T A_{2-2-2} Z_2)^r (Z_{1-1-1}^T A_{1-1-1} Z_1)^r] \\ & \leq (2r-1)^{-1} \text{(using conditional argument as in the proof of Lemma 4 and (2.22) of Sinha (1976))} \\ & = (n-p+k-1)^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

The proof of Lemma 5 is complete.

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